

CLAIMS

1. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically active compound and a non-encapsulating adjuvant, wherein the adjuvant comprises a fungal cell or a fragment thereof.
2. A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fungal cell fragment comprises a fungal cell wall or a part thereof.
3. A composition as claimed in claims 1 or 2 wherein the pharmaceutically active compound comprises a hydrophilic moiety.
4. A composition as claimed in claim 3 wherein the pharmaceutically active compound is hydrophilic or substantially hydrophilic.
5. A composition as claimed in claim 3 or 4 wherein the pharmaceutically active compound comprises a peptide.
6. A composition as claimed in claim 5 further comprising proteinase inhibitor.
7. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the fungal cell or fungal cell fragment is derived from one or more fungi selected from the group consisting of *Mastigomycotina*, *Zygomycotina*, *Ascomycotina*, *Basidiomycotina* and *Deuteromycotina*.
8. A composition as claimed in claim 7 wherein the fungal cell or fungal cell fragment is derived from *Ascomycotina*.
9. A composition as claimed in claim 8 wherein the fungal cell or fungal cell fragment is derived from yeast.
10. A composition as claimed in claim 9 wherein the fungal cell or fungal cell fragment is derived from one or more selected from the group consisting of *Candida albicans*, *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Coccidioides immitis*, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*, *Penicillium marneffei* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

11. A composition as claimed in claim 10 wherein the fungal cell or fungal cell fragment is derived from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

12. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the fungal cell or fungal cell fragment contains chitin and/or chitosan.

13. A composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fungal cell or fungal cell fragment contains chitin in an amount of at least about 5% by dry weight.

14. A composition as claimed in claim 12 or 13 wherein the fungal cell or fungal cell fragment contains chitosan in an amount of at least about 5% by dry weight.

15. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the pharmaceutically active compound is absorbed via the paracellular pathway.

16. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the adjuvant is present in an amount effective to increase the permeability of the paracellular pathway in vivo.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims and a pharmaceutically active compound encapsulated within a yeast cell.

18. A composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims for use as a medicament.

19. A packaged composition comprising at least two discrete components, the first component comprising a pharmaceutically active composition and the second component comprising a fungal cell or a fragment thereof.

20. A method of administering a pharmaceutically active compound via the paracellular pathway comprising the use of a composition as claimed in any one of claims 1-16.

21. The use of a non-encapsulating fungal cell or fungal cell fragment to augment the bioavailability of a pharmaceutically active compound.

22. The use of a composition as claimed in any one of claims 1-16 for alleviating the symptoms of and/or curing an ailment or disease.